



(12) **EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION**

(88) Date of publication A3:
14.01.2004 Bulletin 2004/03

(51) Int Cl.7: **G06F 1/00**

(43) Date of publication A2:
23.05.2001 Bulletin 2001/21

(21) Application number: **00309875.3**

(22) Date of filing: **07.11.2000**

(84) Designated Contracting States:
AT BE CH CY DE DK ES FI FR GB GR IE IT LI LU
MC NL PT SE TR
 Designated Extension States:
AL LT LV MK RO SI

(72) Inventors:
 • **Liu, Sharon S.**
Cupertino, California 95014 (US)
 • **Luehe, Jan**
San Francisco, California 94108 (US)

(30) Priority: **22.11.1999 US 166871 P**
05.01.2000 US 174630 P
14.01.2000 US 483247

(74) Representative: **Harris, Ian Richard et al**
D. Young & Co.,
21 New Fetter Lane
London EC4A 1DA (GB)

(71) Applicant: **Sun Microsystems, Inc.**
Santa Clara, California 95054 (US)

(54) **Mechanism for merging multiple policies**

(57) A mechanism for merging multiple source policies to derive a resultant policy is disclosed. The source policies, which may represent sets of laws/regulations, and which may comprise zero or more entries with each entry comprising an identifier and a set of one or more limitations, are merged by first selecting a current entry in a first source policy. Then a determination is made as to whether there is an entry in a second source policy which corresponds to the current entry. If so, then the limitations in the current entry are processed with the

limitations in the corresponding entry to derive a set of resultant limitations. The limitations are processed such that the resultant limitations comprise the most restrictive limitations of the current entry and the corresponding entry. By doing so, it is ensured that the resultant limitations comply with both the first and the second source policies. Once the resultant limitations are derived, a new entry is created in the resultant policy which comprises the resultant limitations. The resultant policy is thus populated.

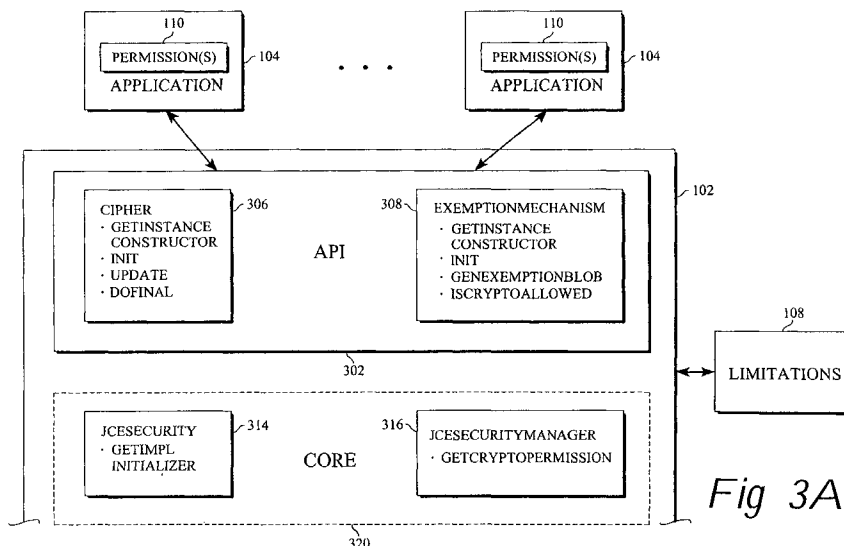


Fig 3A

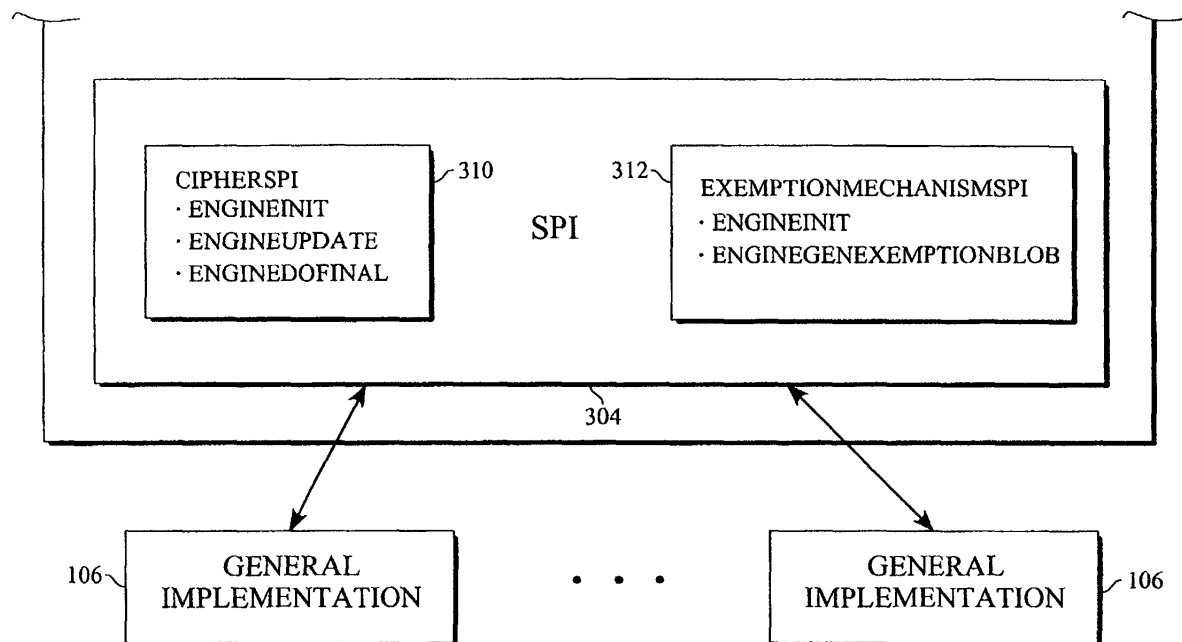


Fig. 3B



European Patent
Office

EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 00 30 9875

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.7)
X	US 5 889 953 A (AGGARWAL AJAY ET AL) 30 March 1999 (1999-03-30)	1-4, 17-21, 34-37	G06F1/00
Y	* column 2, line 6 - column 2, line 12 * * column 3, line 17 - column 3, line 67 * * claims 1,7,11,12,16,25,33,46,47,52 *	5-16, 22-33, 38-50	
Y	EP 0 828 208 A (HEWLETT PACKARD CO) 11 March 1998 (1998-03-11) * column 7, line 21 - line 51 * * column 11, line 15 - column 12, line 9 *	5-16, 22-33, 38-50	
A	WO 98 58322 A (MARCHANT BRIAN E) 23 December 1998 (1998-12-23) * page 12, line 7 - line 24; figure 6 *	3,4,20, 21,36,37	
A	FOLEY S N: "A model for secure information flow" PROCEEDINGS OF THE SYMPOSIUM ON SECURITY AND PRIVACY. OAKLAND, MAY 1 - 3, 1989, WASHINGTON, IEEE COMP. SOC. PRESS, US, 1 May 1989 (1989-05-01), pages 248-258, XP010016026 ISBN: 0-8186-1939-2 * page 248, column 1, paragraph 2 - column 2, paragraph 2 * * page 254, column 2, paragraph 3 - paragraph 9 *	1-50	TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.7) G06F
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search MUNICH		Date of completion of the search 13 November 2003	Examiner Kleiber, M
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document			

EPO FORM 1503 03 82 (P04C01)



European Patent
Office

EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 00 30 9875

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.7)
A	FOLDDOC ONLINE DICTIONARY OF COMPUTING, [Online] 16 July 1997 (1997-07-16), XP002261382 Retrieved from the Internet: <URL:http://foldoc.doc.ic.ac.uk/foldoc/foldoc.cgi?query=wildcard&action=Search> [retrieved on 2003-11-13] * page 1 * -----	13-16, 30-33, 46-49	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.7)
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search MUNICH		Date of completion of the search 13 November 2003	Examiner Kleiber, M
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document			

EPO FORM 1503 03.82 (P04C01)

**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.**

EP 00 30 9875

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report.
The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on
The European Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

13-11-2003

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
US 5889953	A	30-03-1999	US 5872928 A	16-02-1999
			AU 719918 B2	18-05-2000
			AU 2556997 A	22-10-1997
			EP 0890240 A2	13-01-1999
			WO 9737477 A2	09-10-1997
			US 6421719 B1	16-07-2002
			AU 702607 B2	25-02-1999
			AU 5183796 A	11-09-1996
			EP 0811284 A1	10-12-1997
			WO 9626588 A1	29-08-1996
			US 6381639 B1	30-04-2002
			US 6243747 B1	05-06-2001

EP 0828208	A	11-03-1998	US 6148083 A	14-11-2000
			DE 69720893 D1	22-05-2003
			EP 0828208 A2	11-03-1998
			JP 10171648 A	26-06-1998

WO 9858322	A	23-12-1998	EP 0992002 A2	12-04-2000
			JP 2002504293 T	05-02-2002
			WO 9858322 A2	23-12-1998
			US 6236728 B1	22-05-2001
			US 6240183 B1	29-05-2001
			US 2001025340 A1	27-09-2001
